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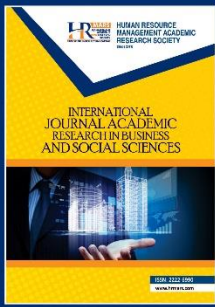
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Challenges in Re-Entry among Former Inmates: A Review

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Abstract

Failure of re-entry has been associated with risks of higher recidivism rates and is a potential factor of decreased inmate's well-being. This article will examine the challenges endured by the former inmates during the process of re-entry. A literature search has been performed using various keywords like "challenges", "re-entry", "crime", "inmates" and "former inmates" in databases, such as Emerald, Elsevier, Sage, and Google Scholar. The results indicate that majority of the inmates undergo common challenges, which includes limited employment prospects, lack of family support, difficulties in securing housing, unstable physical/mental condition and drug dependency. Therefore, this article review is hoped to call for efforts to be made by the government and interested parties to reduce these challenges encountered by former inmates upon their prison release.

Keywords: Challenges, Re-entry, Former Inmates, Review

Introduction

Over the last decade, countless of inmates have been released from prison. Such information amidst the expansive prison population, which has been well documented in various criminal research (Freeman, 2003; Bushway et al. 2007; Forster, 2010; Glaze, 2011). The Ministry of Justice (2016) has found that nearly 1.6 million inmates were incarcerated in state and federal prisons; recent estimates indicate that the total prison population in England and Wales have increased from 41,000 inmates to 84, 405 inmates from 1993 to 2016 (Ministry of Justice, 2016).

Many scholars have highlighted that over 11 million inmates are subsequently caught again each year within 12 months of being released from prison (Glaze, 2011). Evidence from various sources has shown that former inmates are commonly involved in criminal activities due to the failure of re-entry processes after returning to the society (Laub et al. 2003; McGovern et al. 2009; Mears et al. 2010). According to Petersilia (2001), re-entry refers to the process of transition from prison to community after a period of secured confinement in a detention center or prison.